

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by replacing the first paragraph of page 10 with the following:

Figures 3 and 4 show how the valve, according to the preceding figures, can in a simple manner be made to work also as a nonreturn valve. In this case, a flexible and elastic membrane 7 is applied to cursor 3, corresponding to its openings 4. As long as no flow runs through the valve or if the flow tends to be inverted, membrane 7 occludes openings 4, while openings 5 are not pervious because spring 6 keeps the valve in its first position. A flow in the opposite direction is thus prevented. On the other hand, the moment an even minimal pressure difference develops at the heads of the valves in the normal direction of water supply, membrane 7 is lifted, thus clearing openings 4. This is represented in correspondence to the second position of the valve in Figure 4; but it is understood that membrane 7 is raised in the presence of a small flow also if cursor 3 remains in its first position or close to it. Membrane 7 will serve to occlude openings 4 when openings 4 are located at this distal end of cursor 3, as shown in Figures 1-4 and 9-10.